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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
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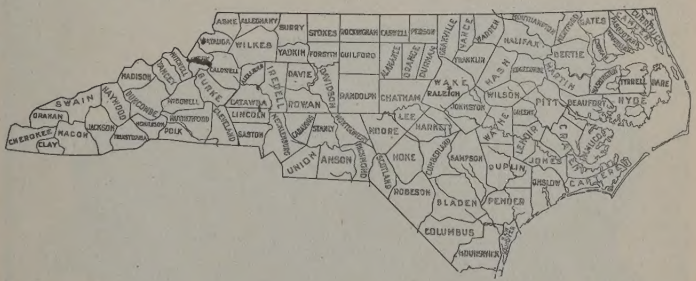
SCORE CARD FOR SWINE



The Extension Service Serves the State

Raleigh and West Raleigh, North Carolina

SOME GOOD INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING THE LEADING BREEDS OF HOGS BELONGING TO THE LARD TYPE.

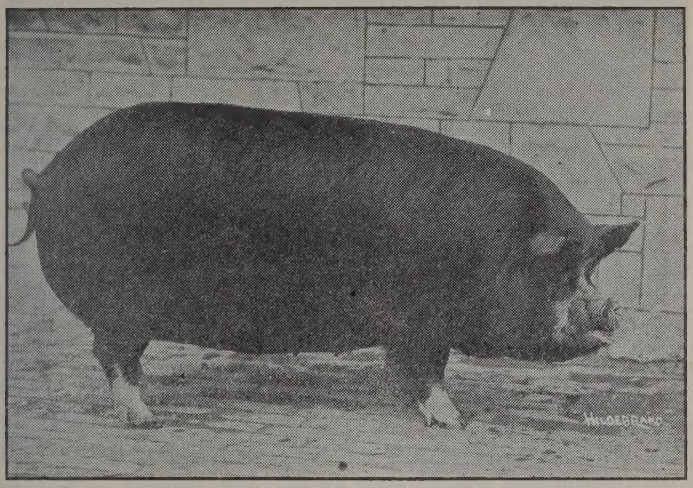


Fig. 1.—A Berkshire sow in show condition.

The Berkshire is a black hog with white points in the face, on the tip of the tail, and on all four feet. Sometimes a splash of white is seen on the fore leg and between the hind legs. The nose is short, the face dished, and the ears stand erect.

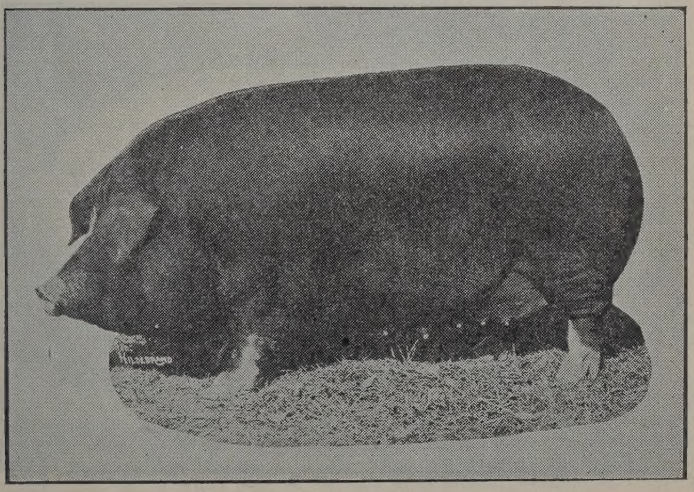


Fig. 2.—A Poland-China sow in show condition.

The Poland-China is also a black hog with white points in the face, on the tip of the tail, and on the feet. Occasionally there is a white splash on the fore leg, between the hind legs and on the body. The nose is longer and the face less dished than that of the Berkshire. The ear should stand erect for two-thirds the distance to the tips and then droop sharply.

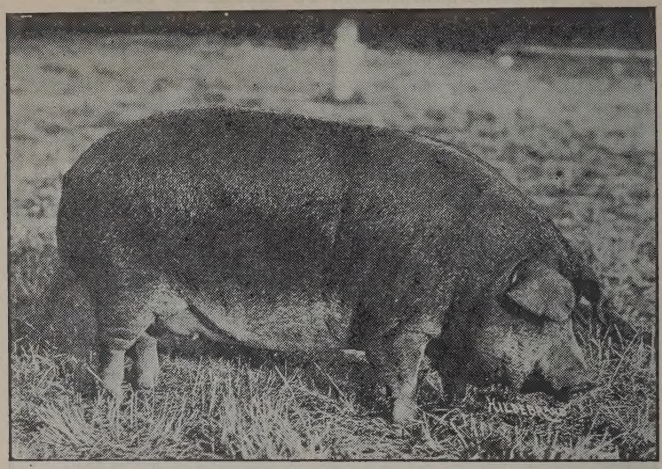


Fig. 3.—A Duroc-Jersey sow in show condition.

The Duroc-Jersey is solid red in color, cherry-red being the ideal color. The nose and face are longer and coarser than those of either the Berkshire or the Poland-China. The ears, being rather heavy, fall forward and lie close to the head, although the typical ear should stand erect, with the tip breaking over.

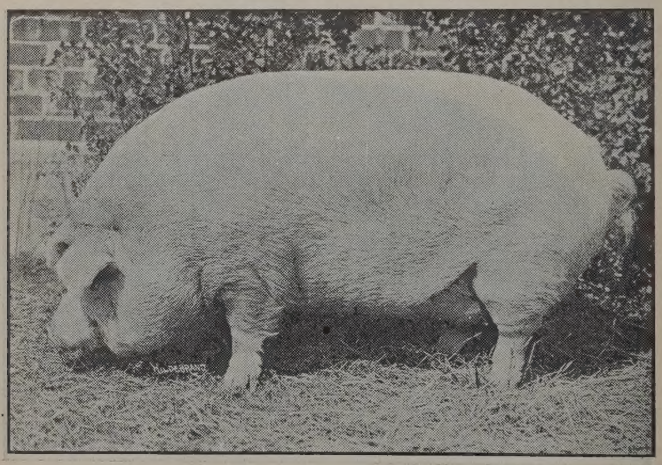


Fig. 4.—A Chester White sow in show condition.

The Chester White hog, sometimes spoken of as the O. I. C., meaning Ohio Improved Chester White, is white in color. Sometimes blue spots are found on the skin. The nose, face and ears are similar to those of the Duroc-Jersey.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The following notes are herewith presented, that those young people who are just beginning to take an interest in hogs, through the Pig Club or otherwise, may have a means of studying the main points, their value and "the why" of their being main points.

It is important that we study this "mortgage-lifting" little animal, because it reproduces much more rapidly than the other meat-producing animals, it makes more meat out of food consumed, it utilizes wastes to a greater extent, and is ready to market within eight months from birth:

TYPES. There are two types of swine:

(a) Bacon type, which is long and narrow in body, upstanding, and resembles the piney-woods rooter or razor-back to quite an extent. The bacon type of hog yields little other than bacon. The United States markets do not cater to those who demand Wiltshire cuts; therefore, nine-tenths of the bacon used in the United States is taken from young, thin hogs of the lard type, ranging from 155 to 195 pounds in weight. The bacon hog is prolific, a good grazer, and makes cheap gains. The hogs, on the average, yield from 70 to 75 per cent of their live weight when killed and dressed. This is from 8 to 10 per cent less than the yield by lard-type animals. The bacon breeds thrive where dairy by-products and feeds rich in protein are produced, but do not do so well where corn feeding is practiced. It is hard to keep them true to type under a system where corn feeding is prevalent. They tend to change to lard type or to get too coarse and narrow, and then are undesirable and unprofitable. They are good pigs for those who will feed properly and are able to select and breed them true to type. For the average farmer the lard type is preferable. The leading bacon breeds are Tamworth and Yorkshire, although the Berkshire, under a different system of feeding, is largely used in Canada as a bacon hog.

(b) The lard type, which is the most common in this country, is low-set, broad and compact in body, and looks like the sketch at the head of this score card, or in direct contrast to the razor-back. From the lard type we get hams, shoulders, side meat and lard. This type is especially adapted for mating with, or crossing on, the native female hogs of the South to refine and compact the meat animals and to impart early maturing qualities. The Duroc-Jersey, Berkshire, and Poland-China are the most common breeds. The Chester-White is a good hog for the North.

CLASSES: (a) **Market Class.** This class includes hogs to kill for meat purposes. The butcher wants the best quality of meat, with the highest dressing percentage. These go with form, quality, condition or covering, size or weight. These points are also important from the producer's standpoint, but in order to be profitable and to possess these qualities the pigs must have inherited constitutional vigor, feeding capacity and prolificacy. They should have strong, well covered back and loin, and large, thick hams. Thus the importance of good breeding stock.

(b) **Breeding Class.** Breeding animals are similar to market animals in many respects, but since they are not kept so fat, they do not appear so broad or compact as the market animal. The same score card may be used. The following points mentioned on the score card are enlarged here because of their importance:

1. **Size.** Size is important in breeding stock. Mature sows should weigh around 400 pounds, while the male should weigh 500 pounds or thereabouts. We should grow our gilts (young sows) well before breeding, else they will be undersized. As a result of breeding undersized young sows, we can expect smaller pigs that tend to be weaker in constitutional vigor. As a guide or suggestion as to what pigs at various ages should weigh, the following is given:

Pigs 10 to 12 weeks of age should weigh 50 to 65 pounds.
Pigs 5 to 6 months of age should weigh 135 to 160 pounds.
Pigs 8 to 9 months of age should weigh 185 to 220 pounds.
Pigs 12 months of age should weigh 300 pounds or more.

2. **Form of Type.** It is important that our breeding stock be true to type, or, in other words, that its body make-up and general appearance be very similar to the description on the score card, for "like produces like," and as a result, if our breeding stock is off type, our market hogs will be of such character that the butchers will cut prices. We lose profits as a result.

3. **Feet and Legs.** The feet and legs are very important. They should be short, straight, strong, of medium size, placed wide apart, and located on the four corners. If the pig stands up well on its toes, and the dewclaws (see No. 25 on cut) are an inch clear of the floor, we can be sure the bone is strong and that the pasterns (No. 24 on cut) are strong enough to carry the weight of the pig when fattened.

4. **Quality.** One important part in a high-dressing percentage is quality. Evidences of quality are soft, fine, silky hair; skin smooth, soft, free of folds or wrinkles; bone of medium size, strong and dense. The general appearance of the pig should be smooth and refined. These external signs are an indication of the quality of the meat and of the dressing percentage of meat.

5. **Femininity and Masculinity.** In our breeding stock we should consider sex characteristics, as they are strong factors in the production of desirable market hogs. The brood sow should be a good breeder, a good feeder, and of good type, in order that she may transmit these characteristics to her offspring. She should be short-faced and wide between the eyes. She should be long, deep and roomy in body, wide through the hips, large and full in the heart girth. She should have good quality, good bone, fine hair, and be refined about the head and ears. Her back should have a strong arch, her rump should be level and full, carrying its width to the tail-head. Her neck should be light on top, behind the ears, but blending smoothly into the shoulders. Twelve well developed teats on a neat, nearly straight belly line should be found. The male should be similar, save the refinement—that is, he should be heavier in shoulder and possess a rugged masculine appearance. In neither male or female should the jowl be flabby, coarse and wrinkled. It should be full, firm and compact.

6. **Disposition.** Bright, expressive eyes and an active disposition are essential. These will insure exercise, which is necessary. A wild, nervous, mean sow will ofttimes kill her young, either through accident or design. On the other hand, a lazy, sluggish sow that will not exercise is very liable to crush her pigs by accident.

7. **Breed Characteristics.** While all breeds of the same type have the same general characteristics, each breed has its own special characteristics. These are in the form of color, markings, set of ears, shape or dish of face, etc. We should select breeding stock which is true to breed type and characteristics, for such are more apt to be "prepotent and prolific" (which big-sounding words simply mean that they will produce pigs like themselves and have large litters). Study Farmers' Bulletin No. 411, pages 40-46, on Breeds of Swine, and pages 3 and 4 of this circular, to learn the breed characteristics.

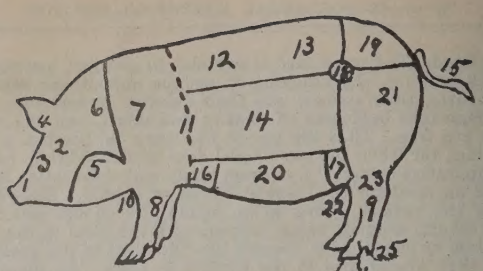
8. **Constitutional Vigor.** In order that our young pigs may be thrifty, active, good feeders, they must inherit good constitutions. Evidence of a good constitution is to be found by examining the heart girth, chest, and fore flank. See cuts and notes Nos. 10, 11 and 16. At No. 10, or between the front legs, the pig should be wide, full, level and smooth. At No. 11 the pig should be deep and wide, with a large heart girth, or, in other words, there should be no appearance of being pinched-in just behind the shoulders. At No. 16 the pig should be full and straight, with no appearance of being "tucked-up." If our breeding stock is strong in this region, we are safe in assuming that, other things being equal, they have large lungs and a big, strong heart. As a result, they are stronger, healthier and more disease-resistant.

The Score Card. The score card is valuable to one just learning live-stock and live-stock judging. By studying it and the animal, the beginner learns the various parts, their names, and their relative importance. He or she learns the important evidences of quality and merit, and the reasons why these things are true. Thus the use of the score card is but a preliminary step in judging; for when the boy or girl does actual judging, he or she will use the "comparative system," i. e., from study and observation he or she will have in mind an ideal for the class and type of animal. Knowing the relative value of the various points in an animal, he or she will compare the parts in the several animals being judged, with the ideal in mind. The animal in the class or ring that is nearest like the ideal in the greatest number of points is then placed first in the contest or class. By class or ring we usually mean animals of one sex, one breed, and with certain age limits, as you will see from the premium lists published and sent to you. This is not followed in detail all the way through a contest. A class or ring, then, is the animals brought before you to be judged at any given time, one competing against the other for the same set of prizes.

How to Make Observations. A word of advice to beginners in regard to the actual work of judging in the ring may be valuable. Most beginners want to crowd right close up to the animals. It is much wiser to stand off 10 or 15 feet and to get an impression of each animal as a whole. It is wise to have system in making your observations. Start in front. Look for width between the eyes, smoothness of shoulders, width of back and loin so carried out that a straight edge applied to the side of the hog should touch the body all along its length. If these things are not to be found, remember them. Move to the left and look for freedom of folds and wrinkles or for smoothness and fullness. Look for strong top lines as evidenced by arch in the back; note that the belly line should be smooth and straight. From this position you can detect weak back, steep rump, flanks that are "cut up" or high, coarse, flabby jowl, narrow hams, long legs, uneven underline. All these are defects that reduce the dressing percentage and yield small amounts of the most valuable cuts. Passing to the rear, observe the width, depth and fullness of the hams, the position of "set" of the legs, and the uniformity of width of body. The legs should be wide apart, to give room for the hams to develop. From the right side, check your impressions made on the left side. Then, having gained a definite general impression of the animals, approach them for a detailed examination of parts according to the score card.

How to Use the Score Card. In using the score card you will realize that in the column headed "Perfect Score" each part of the hog is given its relative value in points on the basis that all parts are valued at 100 points, or perfection. You will realize that the perfect hog does not exist. Therefore, in the column headed "Your Score" you are to place your estimated value of the part in question opposite the perfect score, i. e., if you think the part in question is perfect, give it the same value as appears in the "Perfect Score" column; if not good enough to suit you, give it the part of the perfect score that it deserves, such as 7-10, 8-10, 9-10, etc., of the number in the perfect score. The differences between your score and the perfect score are termed "cuts." Go over the animal and make the cuts. When you total up your values, you have the "score" of the animal. Score all the animals. The ones that stand highest should be placed 1st, 2d, etc. Practice will enable you to score animals rapidly and soon prepare you for comparative judging.

In the contest you will be asked to write your reasons for placing the animals as you do. Paper for this purpose will be furnished. Bring a lead pencil with you. Each pig will be marked, so you can know which one you are placing first. You will put down the number or mark of the pig and its standing just after it. For further details write the Animal Industry Division, West Raleigh, N. C., or B. P. Folk, West Raleigh, N. C.



1. Snout
2. Eye
3. Face
4. Ear
5. Jowl
6. Neck
7. Shoulder
8. Foreleg
9. Hindleg
10. Breast
11. Chestline
12. Back
13. Loin
14. Side
15. Tail
16. Fore Flank
17. Hind Flank
18. Hip
19. Rump
20. Belly
21. Ham
22. Stifle
23. Hock
24. Pastern
25. Dewclaw
26. Foot

SCORE CARD FOR FAT, OR LARD TYPE, SWINE

SCALE OF POINTS, i. e. the relative value of each part in points, when all parts total 100 points as shown in column for perfect score.	SCORE	
	Perfect Score	Your Score
GENERAL APPEARANCE—32 points.		
Weight—Estimated....., actual.....lbs., according to age	2	
Form—Deep, broad, low, symmetrical, compact, standing squarely on legs	10	
Quality—Bone, clean; hair, silky; skin, fine	10	
Condition—Deep, firm, even covering flesh, giving smooth finish	10	
HEAD AND NECK—6 points.		
Snout—Medium to short, not coarse	1	
Eyes—Full, mild, bright, large	1	
Face—Short, cheeks full; without wrinkles	1	
Ears—Fine, medium size, soft, neatly attached	1	
Jowl—Strong, neat, broad, full to the shoulders	1	
Neck—Thick, short, broad on top	1	
FOREQUARTERS—11 points.		
Shoulders—Broad, deep, full, smooth, compact on top	5	
Breast—Wide, roomy	2	
Legs—Straight, short, strong, wide apart, well set	2	
Pasterns—Strong, straight, upright	2	
BODY—32 points.		
Chest—Deep, broad, large girth	3	
Sides—Full and smooth from hams to shoulders, close-ribbed	6	
Back—Broad, straight, thickly and evenly fleshed	9	
Loin—Wide, thick	8	
Belly—Straight, wide	4	
Flank—Even with underline	2	
HINDQUARTERS—19 points.		
Hips—Smooth	2	
Rump—Long, wide, level, well filled out	3	
Hams—Heavily fleshed, deep, wide, thick	10	
Legs—Straight, short, strong, wide apart, well set	2	
Pasterns—Strong, straight, upright	2	
Total	100	